

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 167067
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SIG-03 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-14
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 IO-14
L-03 NASA-02 NEA-11 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
PA-02 DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICA-20 TRSE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 167067

USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JUNE 30 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR
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PAGE 02 STATE 167067

1. HENRY TREWHITT OF BALTIMORE SUN REPORTED THAT VANCE
AND GROMYKO WILL MEET IN GENEVA JULY 12-13 FOR ANOTHER
ATTEMPT TO BREAK IMPASSE IN ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS.
TREWHITT SAID "INFORMED SOURCES DESCRIBED MEETING AS AN
IMPORTANT, THOUGH PROBABLY NOT YET DECISIVE, STEP IN LONG
SERIES OF NEGOTIATIONS." EVEN WITHOUT FINAL AGREEMENT

TREWHITT REPORTED, THEY MIGHT BEGIN TO CLEAR WAY FOR LATER CARTER-BREZHNEV MEETING. TR:WHITT SAID MOST ANALYSTS NOW AGREE THAT SENATE WILL NOT GET SALT TREATY EARLY ENOUGH FOR CONSIDERATION THIS YEAR. "BUT THEY REGARD IT AS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT PACT MIGHT BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER -- EARLY ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY SUMMIT MEETING BEFORE U.S. ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER, TOO LATE FOR IT TO BE FORCED ON CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES DURING THEIR CAMPAIGN."

2. CBS NEWS-NEW YORK TIMES POLL EXPLORED PUBLIC SENTIMENT ABOUT U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS AND FOUND 53 PERCENT OF 1,527 VOTING AGE RESPONDENTS FAVORED GET-TOUGH POLICY IN

EAST-WEST RELATIONS WHILE 30 PERCENT FAVORED EFFORTS TO RELAX TENSIONS. UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL SAID 78 PERCENT OF THOSE SURVEYED ENDORSED SALT TREATY, ALTHOUGH 60 PERCENT BELIEVED IT WOULD NOT BE HONORED BY SOVIETS AND 19 PERCENT EXPECTED U.S. WOULD CHEAT. POLL, CONDUCTED FROM JUNE 19 TO 23, FOUND 48 PERCENT OF THOSE QUESTIONED SAYING U.S. SHOULD BREAK OFF SALT NEGOTIATIONS "UNTIL SOVIET UNION PULLS OUT OF AFRICA." THIRTY-THREE PERCENT DISAGREED. ADAM CLYMER OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID POLL SHOWED THAT AMERICAN PUBLIC'S APPROVAL OF CARTER HAS FALLEN AGAIN, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF DOUBTS ABOUT HIS FOREIGN POLICY LEADERSHIP, TO 38 PERCENT. THIS IS LOWER STANDING THAN ANY OF LAST FIVE PRESIDENTS HELD AFTER THEIR FIRST UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 167067

17 MONTHS IN OFFICE, CLYMER NOTED. PUBLIC FAITH IN CARTER'S ABILITY TO RESTORE TRUST IN GOVERNMENT, "LASTING CORNERSTONE OF HIS STRENGTH EVEN WHEN HIS SPECIFIC POLICIES WERE QUESTIONED," ALSO DROPPED SHARPLY. ONLY ONE-THIRD OF THOSE POLLED LAST WEEK BELIEVED HE COULD RESTORE THAT TRUST, WHILE IN EARLY APRIL, HALF DID. CLYMER SAID PUBLIC WAS EVENLY DIVIDED ON WHETHER U.S. MILITARY STRENGTH SHOULD BE EQUAL TO SOVIET UNION'S OR SUPERIOR. BUT ONLY 12 PERCENT THOUGHT THAT NATION'S STRENGTH WAS NOW GREATER THAN KREMLIN'S, WHILE 32 PERCENT THOUGHT BALANCE WAS ABOUT EVEN. BUT ABOUT AS MANY AS THOSE TWO COMBINED, 42 PERCENT, THOUGHT THAT U.S. WAS WEAKER. CLYMER SAID "WILLINGNESS TO HALTING STRATEGIC ARMS TALKS-- AND AN EVEN GREATER APPROVAL FOR BREAKING OFF DIPLOMATIC AND TRADE MOVES WITH CUBA -- WAS ONE STRONG REACTION TO CURRENT AFRICAN SITUATION."

3. UPI REPORTED FROM U.N. THAT SSOD EARLY TODAY AGREED ON COMPREHENSIVE SET OF GUIDELINES TO STOP ARMS RACE. UPI SAID DOCUMENT SETS OUT PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR REDUCTION OF NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, MILITARY BUDGETS, USE OF FUNDS SAVED FOR

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND OTHER RELATED SUBJECTS. UPI SAID SSOD'S PRINCIPAL CONCRETE FEATURES WERE STEPS TO PUT THESE PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICE--INCLUDING REACTIVATION OF U.N. DISARMAMENT COMMISSION, DORMANT SINCE 1965, AND AN EXPANSION OF GENEVA-BASED CCD.

4. WALL STREET JOURNAL'S BILL PAUL, REPORTING FROM BLANKENBERG, WEST GERMANY ON NATO'S COMBAT READINESS, SAID EXPERTS BELIEVE SOVIETS WOULD BE MOST LIKELY TO ATTACK IN CENTRAL EUROPE, "BY FAR MOST STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT PIECE OF REAL ESTATE IN NATO AREA." IF WAR COMES, CAN WESTERN EUROPE BE DEFENDED? "YES, STRATEGISTS SAY, BUT AT HEAVY PRICE IN TERMS OF MEN AND WEAPONS.... IN END, EVEN WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS, LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 167067

BE STAGGERING -- SO MUCH SO, IN FACT, THAT MOSCOW COULD THEN BE VULNERABLE TO AN ATTACK FROM CHINA. THAT POSSIBILITY SCARES RUSSIANS, STRATEGISTS SAY, AND COULD WELL KEEP MOSCOW FROM EVER TANGLING WITH WEST." PAUL SAID KEY TO WESTERN EUROPE'S FUTURE SECURITY IS CONTINUED STRONG U.S. PRESENCE THERE.

5. GEORGE WILSON OF WASHINGTON POST SAID JCS ARE UNDERSTOOD TO BE VIEWING FAVORABLY PLAN WHICH ENVISIONS CONSTRUCTION OF SEVERAL HUNDRED CONCRETE HOLES IN VICINITY OF PRESENT U.S. MISSILE FIELDS SCATTERED THROUGH UPPER MIDWEST AND WEST. MX MISSILE WOULD BE TRUCKED FROM ;OLE TO HOLE WITH ITS OWN LAUNCHING EQUIPMENT ON VEHICLE THAT WOULD BE VISIBLE TO SOVIET SPY SATELLITES. ONCE VEHICLE REACHED ONE OF CONCRETE-LINED HOLES, IT COULD SLIDE MISSILE AND ITS LAUNCHER IN AND MOVE ON. HOLES WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED IN FIELDS ALLOWING RATION OF ABOUT TEN HOLES FOR EACH MISSILE, REQUIRING SOVIETS TO TARGET EACH HOLE IF THEY WANTED CAPABILITY FOR DESTROYING ENTIRE FORCE. SOVIET TARGETERS, ACCORDING TO THEORY OF NEW PLAN, COULD NEVER BE SURE OF DESTROYING ENOUGH U.S. LAND-BASED MISSILES IN SURPRISE ATTACK WITHOUT RISK OF AN UNACCEPTABLE RETALIATORY STRIKE. "PLAN IS CLEARLY DESIGNED TO APPEAL TO AT LEAST THREE CONSTITUENCIES VITAL TO APPROVAL OF STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT: SOVIETS, WHO STRONGLY FAVOR VERIFIABLE LIMIT ON NUCLEAR DELIVERY VEHICLES, SENATE NUCLEAR HAWKS, WHO WANT NEW AND SURVIVABLE LAND-BASED MISSILE SYSTEM FOR 1980S, AND FINALLY, WHITE HOUSE, WHICH WANTS STRATEGIC ARMS TREATY THAT SENATE WILL APPROVE." WILSON SAID UNDER PROPOSAL, CONCRETE COVERS OVER MISSILE HOLES COULD BE SLID BACK ON OCCASION TO REASSURE SOVIETS THAT NO LAUNCHING EQUIPMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 05 STATE 167067

WAS INSIDE THEM. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY, HE SAID, WOULD BE TO PERMIT ON-GROUND RANDOM INSPECTION OF MISSILE HOLES. "RATIONALE WOULD BE TO ASSURE SOVIETS THAT NUMBER OF MISSILES WOULD CONFORM TO AGREED-UPON LIMITS. BUT, AS IN PROVERBIAL SHELL GAME, SOVIET TARGETERS WOULD NOT KNOW WHERE MISSILES ARE LOCATED." PLAN WOULD COST ABOUT HALF OF \$40 BILLION DOLLAR PRICE TAG FOR AN ALTERNATE SYSTEM FOR DEPLOYING MX MISSILES IN TUNNELS. VANCE

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